

## Message Text

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DEPT OF LABOR

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SUBJECT: HIGH IMPACT USIS-EMBASSY SEMINARS IN NORTH NORWAY

REF: OSLO 5583

SUMMARY: KEY REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL TRADE UNION AND LABOR PARTY OFFICIALS PARTICIPATED IN TWO USIS-SPONSORED LABOR SEMINARS IN NORTH NORWAY IN FEBRUARY. NORTH NORWAY'S LEADING EDITOR TOOK PART. PARTICIPANTS WERE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT USEFULNESS OF SEMINARS IN IMPROVING THEIR UNDERSTANDING AND AWARENESS OF US LABOR AND ITS ACTIVE POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ROLE, AND OF US SOCIAL PROGRESS, BENEFITS AND INSTITUTIONS. USIS-SPONSORED TOUR DURING WEEK BETWEEN SEMINARS ALSO INCLUDED THREE MINI-SEMINARS (FILM SHOWINGS FOLLOWED BY DISCUSSION SESSIONS) WITH LEADING LOCAL LABOR POLITICIANS AND TRADE UNION LEADERS, AS WELL AS VISITS TO PLANTS, UNION OFFICIALS AND LOCAL AND PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES. TWO RECENT IVP GRANTEES (PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES FOR NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION - LO) ORGANIZED TOUR AND SEMINARS AND INVITED PARTICIPANTS, FOLLOWING PATTERN SET BY SUCCESSFUL LABOR SEMINAR IN SOUTH NORWAY IN DECEMBER (REFTEL). THEY AND EDITOR, WHO IS ALSO RECENT IVP GRANTEE, ALSO GAVE SEMINARS FAVORABLE REPORTS OF THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF US LABOR AND

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SOCIETY DURING THEIR RECENT TRIPS. END SUMMARY.

1. TEN-DAY USIS-SPONSORED PROGRAM IN TROMS AND NORDLAND PROVINCES IN NORTH NORWAY INCLUDED TWO WEEKEND LABOR SEMINARS (ONE IN EACH PROVINCE). REMAINDER OF TOUR WAS DEDICATED TO EVENING FILM-DISCUSSION SESSIONS WITH KEY LOCAL LABOR MOVEMENT FIGURES AND OFFICIALS, ETC., IN COMMUNITIES BETWEEN TWO SEMINAR LOCATIONS. VOLSPKR. MARC KARSON PARTICIPATED IN FIRST SEMINAR. USIO TROMSO PARTICIPATED IN ENTIRE PROGRAM ALONG WITH LABATT AND EMBASSY FSL LABOR SPECIALIST. SEMINARS DEALT WITH US LABOR MOVEMENT, ITS HISTORY, ORGANIZATION, AIMS, ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY, PLUS US SOCIAL SECURITY AND OTHER SOCIAL LEGISLATION AND INSTITUTIONS, AND UNION-CONTRACTED AND OTHER PRIVATE SOCIAL AND HEALTH BENEFITS.

2. FIRST SEMINAR, HELD IN BARDUFOS, TROMS, WAS ORGANIZED BY TROMS LO DISTRICT SECRETARY ROLF NILSSEN WHO VISITED US ON AN IVP GRANT IN 1974. NILSSEN IS ALSO TROMS LABOR PARTY CHAIRMAN. PARTICIPANTS, SELECTED BY NILSSEN, INCLUDED 24 KEY OFFICIALS FROM TEN DIFFERENT TRADE UNIONS, LABOR PARTY AND PRESS, WORKERS' EDUCATION ASSOCIATION AND OTHER LABOR MOVEMENT ORGANIZATIONS. ONE MAYOR AND TWO MILITARY OFFICERS ACTIVE IN THE OFFICERS' AND NON-COMS UNION WERE AMONG THEM. USIO TROMSO WELCOMED PARTICIPANTS AND BRIEFLY DESCRIBED US POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCENE. PROF. KARSON LECTURED ON US LABOR MOVEMENT. EMBASSY FSL LABOR SPECIALIST LECTURED ON SOCIAL SECURITY AND OTHER SOCIAL BENEFITS IN US. SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS NILSSEN AND REIDAR NIELSEN, EDITOR OF NORTH NORWAY'S LEADING NEWSPAPER NORDLYS AND ALSO A RECENT IVP GRANTEE, TALKED ON THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THE US, ITS LABOR MOVEMENT AND POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SYSTEM. "THE INHERITANCE," AND EXCELLENT LABOR HISTORY FILM MADE BY KARSON'S FORMER UNION, VIVIDLY REINFORCED KARSON'S WIDE RANGING PRESENTATION ATE UP DISCUSSION TIME, BUT PARTICIPANTS WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY HIS INDEPENDENT VIEWPOINT AND PROFESSORIAL STYLE, FELT THEY LEARNED MUCH OF VALUE AND ONLY WISHED THEY HAD MORE TIME. PRESENTATION BY NILSSEN AND NIELSEN REINFORCED WHAT KARSON AND EMBASSY

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PARTICIPANTS SAID, ADDING ILLUSTRATIVE ANECDOTES AND EXPERIENCES.

3. SECOND SEMINAR, AT MOUTAIN RESORT SOUTH NEAR POLAR CIRCLE, WAS ORGANIZED BY LO'S NORDLAND IDSTRIC SECRETARY HANS NORDAHL JENSEN, WHO TRAVELLED WITH NILSSEN ON 1974 IVP GRANT. SECOND SEMINAR'S 20 PARTICIPANTS WERE EQUALLY HIGH POWERED. AMONG THEM WERE LABOR PARTY

PROVINCIAL CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY, PARTY CHAIRMAN FOR A MAJOR DISTRICT WITHIN PROVINCE, CHAIRMEN OR PREPRESENT-ATIVES OF SEVERAL LOCAL TRADE UNION DISTRICT COUNCILS, AIR DEFENSE UNIT COMMANDER ACTIVE IN OFFICER AND NON-COMS UNION, UNION OFFICIAL FROM NORWAY'S MAJOR STEEL PLANT AND REPRESENTATIVE OF LABOR YOUTH. USIO TROMSO SET SCENE WITH GENERAL REMARKS ON DIVERSITY OF US SOCIETY, FOLLOWED BY "THE INHERITANCE." LABATT LECTURED ON ORGANIZATION, SIZE, NATURE, APPROACH, HISTORY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF US LABOR, STRESSING POLITICAL ACTION. FSL LABOR SPECIALIST AGAIN COVERED SOCIAL SECURITY AND OTHER SOCIAL BENEFITS - OFFICIAL, CONTRACTED AND PRIVATE - FOLLOWED BY EXCELLENT FILM ("VOICE IN THE CITY") ON MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES UNION (AFSCME) IN NEW YORK CITY. JENSEN CONCLUDED WITH HIS IMPRESSIONS FROM HIS US TOUR, INCLUDING HIS VISIT TO NEW YORK CITY AFSCME. FACT ALL PRESENTATIONS WERE IN NORWEGIAN LEFT AMPLE TIME FOR FULL AND VIGOROUS DISCUSSION. THIS SEMINAR WAS EVEN MORE EFFECTIVE THAN THE FIRST.

4. BETWEEN SEMINARS, USIO TROMSO, LABATT AND LABOR SPECIALIST VISITED FOUR COMMUNITIES IN NORDLAND PROVINCE, TOURED PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS, TALKED WITH UNION LEADERS AND MANAGEMENT, MET MUNICIPAL AND PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES AND HELD EVENING SOCIAL AND DISCUSSION GATHERINGS WITH LOCAL LABOR MOVEMENT NOTABLES. MOST EFFECTIVE DISCUSSION SESSION WAS IN MAJOR PORT CITY OF NARVIK WHERE JENSEN ARRANGED GATHERING OF ABOUT 15 KEY LOCAL LABOR PARTY AND TRADE UNION FIGURES IN LOCAL "PEOPLE'S HOUSE" (PARTY AND TRADE UNION HEADQUARTERS). "INHERITANCE" FILM PROVOKED SHARP QUESTIONS AND EXCELLENTLY-FOCUSSED DISCUSSION. AMONG PARTICIPANTS WAS LEADING NORTH NORWAY COMMUNIST MAGNE MORTENSEN, PARTY (NKP) CHAIRMAN FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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NORDLAND PROVINCE. MORTENSEN ASKED ONE PROVOCATIVE BUT EASILY-ANSWERED QUESTION; HE WAS OTHERWISE UNOBTRUSIVE AND INTERESTED. NARVIK GATHERING TURNED INTO MINI-SEMINAR NEARLY OF QUALITY OF TWO WEEKEND SEMINARS.

COMMENT: ALL THREE EMBASSY PARTICIPANTS FELT TWO SEMINARS AND IN-BETWEEN VISITS WERE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN IMPROVING IMAGE OF US SOCIETY AND LABOR MOVEMENT IN KEY TRADE UNION AND LABOR PARTY CIRCLES IN NORTH NORWAY. USIO TROMSO JUDGED IT ONE OF MOST SUCCESSFUL EFFORTS DURING HIS TWO YEARS AS US INFORMATION OFFICER FOR NORTH NORWAY: "WE WERE ABLE TO USE ALL THE ASSETS WE HAVE TO REACH PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT EASY TO COLLECT IN ONE PLACE AND THEN DISCUSS WITH THEM THE ISSUES THAT MOST NEEDED TO BE GONE OVER." HE ADDED THAT "PEOPLE ARE

NATURALLY MUCH MORE RECEPTIVE WHEN THEIR OWN ORGANIZATION  
SETS UP MEETINGS AND THEIR OWN LEADERS SHARE IN GIVING  
THEIR IMPRESSIONS OF THE UNITED STATES."  
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